

Article

**A new species and two new records of larval mites (Acari: Prostigmata; Erythraeidae, Smarididae) from northern Iran and Montenegro**

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**Abstract**

*Moldoustium haitlingeri* Noei, Saboori & Šundić **sp. nov.** (Acari: Erythraeidae) is described from northern Iran and Montenegro. It is the second known species of the genus and was found in soil samples. Also, *Hirstiosoma latreillei* (Grandjean, 1947) and *Fessonia papillosa* (Hermann, 1804) (Acari: Smarididae) are reported for the first time from Iran.

**Key words:** Parasitengona, Erythraeoidea, Balaustiinae, *Moldoustium*, *Hirstiosoma latreillei*, *Fessonia papillosa*

**Introduction**

The family Erythraeidae of the superfamily Erythraeoidea consists of seven subfamilies (Mağol & Wohltmann 2012, 2013). Among them, the Balaustiinae is unusual in having free-living larvae, whereas other erythraeids have larvae that are arthropod ectoparasites. It comprises 13 genera, including the monotypic *Moldoustium* Haitlinger (Haitlinger 2008, Mağol & Wohltmann 2012). The smaller erythraeoid family Smarididae includes only two subfamilies, the Smaridinae and Hirstiosomatinae (Southcott 1961, Beron 2008).

During a survey of terrestrial parasitengone mites of Guilan province (northern Iran) and Montenegro, we found larvae representing a new species of *Moldoustium* and also the smaridid species *Hirstiosoma latreillei* (Grandjean, 1947) and *Fessonia papillosa* (Hermann, 1804), which are both new to the Iranian mite fauna.

**Materials and methods**

Fifteen Iranian specimens were extracted from soil using a Berlese funnel and separated under a stereomicroscope, while one Montenegrin specimen was collected directly from the ground. The specimens were cleared in Nesbitt's fluid and mounted on a glass microscope slide using Hoyer's medium (Walter & Krantz 2009). Figures were drawn and measurements (given in micrometers) were made using a BX 51 phase contrast Olympus microscope equipped with a drawing tube. The terminology and abbreviations are adapted from Saboori *et al.* (2009) and Wohltmann *et al.* (2006).